

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6954

BILL NUMBER: SB 196

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 26, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Child Solicitation.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Drozda

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ GENERAL
☒ DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill increases the age of a victim of child solicitation from 14 to 16 years of age.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Child solicitation is a Class D felony, or a Class C felony if it is committed by using a computer network. Between FY 1997 and 2001, there were five offenders a year on average committed to Department of Correction (DOC) facilities for Class D child solicitation. (No information is available for the Class C felony offense.) There are no data available to indicate how many more offenders may be convicted of the offense if the age of the victim is increased from 14 to 16 years.

Depending on the mitigating and aggravating circumstances, a Class D felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from six months to three years or reduction to Class A misdemeanor and a Class C felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from two to eight years. The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$25,087 in FY 2001. Individual facility expenditures ranged from \$18,520 to \$54,465. (This does not include the cost of new construction.) If offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the average cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$1,825 annually, or \$5 daily, per prisoner. The average length of stay in DOC facilities for all Class D felony offenders is approximately ten months and for all Class C felony offenders is approximately two years.

Explanation of State Revenues: If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class D or a Class C felony is \$10,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. If the case is filed in

a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: If more defendants are detained in county jails prior to their court hearings, local expenditures for jail operations may increase. The average cost per day is approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Indiana Sheriffs Association, Department of Correction.

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